

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Ellen Gavin
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayner
Phyllis A. Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service From Princeton to the Metropolitan
Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: December 11, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-404, 407, 520, 405, 413, 426,
427, 430, 421/CP-98-1195

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Princeton exchange took place between August 21, and October 11, 2002.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the EAS route proposed between Princeton and the metropolitan calling area (MCA).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Certification of Polling Results: Princeton to the MCA

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Princeton exchange voted in favor of EAS to the MCA. The results were as follows:

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Princeton	MCA	\$3.97	\$9.83	53.4	2420	76.7	736	23.3

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation.¹ Because a majority of Princeton customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS route, the third and final criterion is met.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the telephone company for the petitioning exchange in this matter, US WEST Company (USWC, now Qwest, or the Company), to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order the Company to coordinate implementation of EAS in the Princeton exchange with the telephone companies serving the MCA and file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. The telephone company serving Princeton (Qwest) will also be required to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The EAS route between Princeton and the MCA is hereby approved. Qwest shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. Qwest shall coordinate the implementation of EAS with the telephone companies serving the MCA and shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, the company should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
3. Qwest shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notices shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date. After approval, Qwest shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle.

¹ The Commission has established three criteria for the installation of EAS. See In the Matter of an Investigation into the Appropriate Local Calling Scope, in Accordance with Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1994), ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION (February 26, 1996). In that Order, the third and final criterion was that if a majority of subscribers vote in favor of the installation of Extended Area Service (EAS), the Commission should order the telephone companies to install the service.

4. Qwest shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the petitioning exchange, either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. Qwest must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
5. Qwest shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. The companies serving the MCA shall file proposed customer notices for customers in the MCA for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the Princeton-MCA route. The notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The companies shall send the notices during billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
7. Qwest shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Order establishing the rates and terms for EAS between Princeton and the MCA. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of EAS. Once this is done, this docket shall be closed.
8. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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